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Cranston Asserts U.S. Is Violating O.A.S. Charter by Aiding Rebels

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By FRANK LYNN

In a broad attack on Reagan Administration policy in Latin America, Senator Alan Cranston accused the Administration yesterday of violating the charter of the Organization of American States by providing funds for the "covert war" in Nicaragua.

"United States policy toward Nicaragua stands in direct contravention of the Organization of American States charter, which prohibits nations from intervening in the affairs of other signatories," the California Democrat told some 75 members of the Council on Foreign Relations at Pratt House, 58 E. 68th St., in the first of two New York appearances last evening.

The Senator, a Presidential aspirant, called for an end to United States financing of anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua, the withdrawal of United States naval forces from the area and the curtailment of United States maneuvers in neighboring Honduras.

After his speech, which was billed by aides as a major foreign policy address, Senator Cranston drove to White Plains for the third of seven Democratic Presidential forums sponsored by the New York State Democratic Committee.

Peace Moves Supported

Calling on the United States to actively support the peace moves of the so-called Contadora Group — Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and Mexico — the Senator proposed long-term American actions in addition to the immediate curtailment of military moves. The Contadora nations, which the Senator recently visited, propose negotiations among Latin American nations, Cuba and the United States.

"The Reagan Administration's 'gunboat diplomacy' is frustrating Latin American peace efforts," the Senator said.

He proposed that the United States help promote economic development and debt refinancing for Central American nations, join with other na-

tions in the area to press for internationally supervised elections in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, and encourage the Contadora nations to pursue their dialogue with Cuba.

"We should be prepared to enter into that dialogue either indirectly through them, or directly if necessary," the Senator declared. He added that "diplomatic recognition of Cuba, which sets off such a firestorm of political protest whenever it is mentioned in our country, is not the issue here."

Nationalism a Potent Force

"United States policy must reflect an appreciation of the basic fact that nationalism is today a far more potent driving force in Latin American nations than capitalism or Communism," the Californian said. "Parading American military macho in the region may make Ronald Reagan feel good today but it will do a great deal of harm to our long-term interests."

Earlier this year, Senator Cranston sought unsuccessfully to cut off military aid to El Salvador unless Congress certified that El Salvador was ending human rights violations.

"American marines are already being shot at and killed in the civil war in Lebanon," the Senator said last evening. "Unless hotheads in the Pentagon and the White House are restrained, more Americans may soon be shot at and killed in El Salvador and Nicaragua."

The Senator said more than \$1 billion had been spent or requested by the Reagan Administration for "the civil war in El Salvador."

"What are the results of this enormous infusion of guns and ammunition?" he asked. "More than 30,000 civilians have been killed in El Salvador, the majority of them by Government security forces and assassination squads armed with American guns and bullets."

He said that if the Administration "has a case that there is a significant arms flow from Nicaragua to El Salvador, it should make it before the O.A.S."

"But," he added, "the available evidence suggests that this alleged arms flow is an insignificant trickle."

He accused the Administration of promoting a policy "that inevitably leads from cruel, authoritarian dictatorships through guerrilla warfare to Marxist regimes."